CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-9 (cancelled).

10. (Withdrawn) A process for preparing the formulation of claim 1, including the following steps:

a) granulating a Lithium salt in powder with a solution of a binder selected from the group consisting of polyvinylpyrrolidone, polyethyleneglycol, saccharose and gelatin;

b) sieving the granules obtained in step a) ranging from 200 to 2000 micrometers to obtain a release formulation;

c) coating of all or part of the granules obtained in step b) to obtain the modified release formulation.

11. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein said Lithium salt in powder has a granulometry lower than 100 micrometers.

12. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein said binder solution is a water solution or an organic solvent solution.

13. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein said organic solvent is ethanol.

14. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein said binder solution has a concentration ranging from 3 to 20%.

15. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein the quantity of the binder utilized in the granulation ranges from 0.5% to 15% compared to the Lithium salt.

16. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 10, wherein the granules are coated with substances selected from the group consisting of polymers of acrylic and metacrylic acid,

cellulose derivatives, stearic acid, paraffin, shellac, zein, or mixtures of the same in any proportion, optionally charged, with therapeutically acceptable plasticizers.

17. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 16, wherein said polymers of acrylic and metacrylic acid are selected from the group consisting of poly (methacrylic acid-co-methyl-methacrylate), 1:1, 135,000 mw, poly (methacrylic acid-co-ethyl acrylate), 1:1, 250,000 mw, poly (ethyl acrylate-co-methyl methacrylate-co-trimethyl amoniocthyl methacrylate chloride), 1:2:9.1, 150,000 mw, and poly (ethyl acrylate-co-methyl methacrylate-co-trimethyl amonioethyl methacrylate chloride), 1:2:0.2, 150,000 mw.

18. (Withdrawn) The process according to claim 16, wherein said cellulose derivatives are selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulosephtalate, celluloseacetatephtalate.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) A multiparticulate formulation comprising a plurality of microgranules or micro-tablets having dimensions ranging from 200 to 2000 micrometers and each microgranule or microtablet containing granulated Lithium salts and a binder, said plurality of microgranules or micro-tablets being a mixture containing ~~either being~~ coated microgranules or microtablets and having a modified release ~~or a portion of said microgranules or microtablets being coated and having a modified release~~ and a remaining portion being microgranules or microtablets having a conventional release, said formulation having a Lithium salt content of at least 500 mg/g and said mixture having sufficient modified release coated microgranules or microtablets to have an in vitro dissolution profile suitable for once-a-day administration.

21. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to claim 20, wherein the Lithium salt content is up to 1000 ~~mg/g~~ mg per dose.

22. (Previously Presented) The formulation according to claim 20, wherein said Lithium salt content is at least 900 mg/g.

23. (Previously Presented) The formulation according to claim 20, wherein said Lithium salt is selected from the group consisting of lithium carbonate, acetate, glutamate, thionate and sulphate.

24. (Previously Presented) The formulation according to claim 20, wherein the modified release microgranules or microtablets are coated with a substance selected from the group consisting of polymers of acrylic and methacrylic acid, cellulose derivatives, stearic acid, paraffin, shellac, zein, or mixtures of the same in any proportion, optionally charged with therapeutically acceptable plasticizers.

25. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to claim 24, wherein said polymers of acrylic and ~~metacrylic~~ methacrylic acid are selected from the group consisting of poly (methacrylic acid-co-ethyl acrylate), 1:1, 250,000 MW, poly (ethyl acrylate-co-methyl methacrylate-co-trimethyl ammonioethyl methacrylate chloride), 1:2:0.1, 150,000 MW, and poly (ethyl acrylate-co-methyl methacrylate-co-trimethyl ammonioethyl methacrylate chloride), 1:2:0.2, 150,000 MW.

26. (Previously Presented) The formulation according to claim 24, wherein said cellulose derivatives are selected from the group consisting of ethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, hydroxypropylmethylcellulosephtalate, celluloseacetatephtalate.

27. (Previously Presented) The formulation according to claim 24, wherein the formulation contains uncoated microgranules and coated microgranules.

28. (Currently Amended) The formulation according to claim 20 wherein the ~~formulation~~ mixture has coated an amount of modified release microgranules or microtablets and an amount

of conventional release microgranules or microtablets ~~in an amount~~ sufficient to have a dissolution profile where from 5-25% of the Lithium salt is dissolved in one hour, 20-45% is dissolved in four hours, 40-65% is dissolved in eight hours, 50-80% is dissolved in twelve hours; and 60-90% is dissolved in twenty four hours.